

DESCRIPTION OF TRAILS

- 1. EASY — 1 mile. Circles wildlife exhibit – begins at exhibit parking lot.
- 2. EASY — 1.5 miles. Begins at north end of campground. Winds north through pine plantation, then south along swimming pool complex and back east to campground.
- 3. EASY — 1.5 miles. Begins at north end of campground, travels eastward through magnificent stand of oak and hickory, passes a woodland marsh, and winds its way to the point of origin.
- 4. MODERATE — 3 miles. Begins at wildlife exhibit, branches north through heavy pine plantations, then west through more pines, hawthorn, etc., and back east along the southern edge of Kunkel Lake and around to the point of origin.
- 5. MODERATE — 6 miles. The "Ouabache Trail" begins at the wildlife exhibit and circles the entire property, utilizing portions of all trails. Trail 5 may be started and finished at any trail entrance. The trail will take you through virtually all types of trees and terrain available in the area. There are also several interesting footbridges along the trail.

PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS!

Please let wild animals remain wild. Feeding of deer is prohibited. Feeding of all wild animals can result in harm to both animals and people. Animals who depend on handouts become a nuisance to park visitors and a danger to themselves. Please lock up all food and coolers inside cars or campers. Roll car windows up tightly. Visitors should report raccoon or other wildlife problems to the park office.

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

BOATS, CANOES, PADDLEBOATS — For rental by day or hour. Life jackets available. Private boats may be launched for daily fee. Only electric trolling motors, powered by no more than 12-volt batteries are allowed. U.S. Coast Guard approved lifejackets are required by law.

CAMPING — Electric, non-electric, and primitive youth tent sites for approved groups only. Campground equipped with flush toilets, hot water, and showers. Occupancy limited to 14 consecutive nights. Most sites will accommodate trailers. No full-hook-ups but waterfill station and dump station available. Reservations available through the Central Reservation System.

FIRETOWER — A 100 foot tower offers scenic view of the entire area. An adult must accompany children climbing the firetower.

FISHING — Bass, bluegill, etc. State license required. Contact park office for license purchases.

HIKING — Miles of moderate trails - **no bicycle or vehicles of any kind permitted on hiking trails.**

INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE — Explore the world of natural resources while enjoying interpretive and recreational programs. Seasonal naturalist. Program schedules are available on the website at www.interpretiveservices.IN.gov or call (260) 824-0926.

PAVED BIKE TRAIL - 2 3/4 miles — Asphalt trail connects east end of park south of campground to bridge at 450 East and Bluffton’s Rivergreenway Trail.

LODGE RECREATION BUILDING — Rustic building with fireplace, kitchen facilities and parking. Reservations up to (1) year in advance available through the Central Reservation System. Contact park office for details.

PICNICKING — Two modern picnic shelters, one open shelter, many tables, and charcoal grills. Playground equipment throughout the park and softball field with backstop. Reservations for shelters are available through the Central Reservation System.

SWIMMING — Olympic-size pool and waterslide, diving boards, and wading pool. Open the Saturday before Memorial Day to no later than Labor Day. Limited hours during late August.

THIS IS YOUR PARK

All visitors are expected to observe the following rules which are designed to fulfill the purpose for which state parks were established, namely, to preserve a primitive landscape in its natural condition for the use and enjoyment of the people.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Do not injure or damage any structure, rock, tree, flower, bird or wild animal within the Park. Do NOT gather limbs, brush or trees (either dead or alive) for firewood! It MUST be allowed to remain to rebuild the natural humus.
- Any firearm, BB gun, air gun, CO₂ gun, bow and arrow, or spear gun in possession in a state park must be unloaded or un-nocked and stored in a case or locked within a vehicle except when participating in an activity authorized by written permit.
- Dogs and cats must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet and attended at all times.
- There shall be no vending or advertising without permission of the Department of Natural Resources.
- Camping is permitted only in the campground. No youth groups in the family campground.
- Fires shall be built only in places provided.
- Please comply with the Carry In/Carry Out trash policy in all day use areas. Overnight guests must put waste in receptacles provided for that purpose.
- Motorists will observe speed limits as posted, and park in designated areas.
- Swimming is limited to olympic-size pool during times designated by the department.
- Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose. This water is tested regularly for purity.
- Report lost or found articles to the park office.
- All motorized vehicles must remain on paved roadway. Snowmobiles and horseback riding are prohibited.

For a complete list of rules and regulations inquire at park office.

TENNIS/BASKETBALL COURTS — Located near the swimming pool, both of these courts are equipped with lights and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

WILDLIFE — A twenty-acre exhibit consists of American bison in a natural setting.

CENTRAL RESERVATION SYSTEMS

Reservations for all types of camping, family cabins, and shelters at state parks, reservoirs and forests can be made by going online or use the toll free number.

www.camp.IN.gov
1-866-6campIN
(1-866-622-6746)



Reservations for the Indiana State Park Inns and Inn-operated cabins can be made by going online or use the toll free number.

www.indianainns.com
1-877-lodges1
(1-877-563-4371)



Please carry out all trash you produce in order to keep your park clean and beautiful for others to enjoy!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Ouabache State Park
4930 E. St. Road 201
Bluffton, Indiana 46714
Call: (260) 824-0926
FAX: (260) 824-9402

DNR
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
www.dnr.IN.gov

SPECIAL NOTE

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operation and maintenance costs of the park. List of fees available in the park office.

The programs, services, facilities, and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to everyone. DNR prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to: Department of Natural Resources, Executive Office, 402 W. Washington St., Rm. W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4020.

INDIANA

OUABACHE STATE PARK

This area of Wells County was occupied by the Miami Indians whose villages flanked the banks of the Wabash River. In 1829, the first settler built a cabin near here along the river. After the Indians were removed to reservations in Kansas and Oklahoma during the 1830's and 40's, the area was rapidly settled and cleared for farming.

Ouabache was first acquired and operated as the Wells County State Forest and Game Preserve in the early 1930's. By this time the area had been cleared of most of its mature timber stands and was severely eroded. The area gradually returned to a more natural state through the efforts of the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) and the WPA (Works Progress Administration) programs of reforestation and land management. Major activities included constructing the various buildings and shelters of native stone and timber, nursery plantings, and the develop-

ment of the game preserve. At one time the park was widely acclaimed as the "Greatest Wildlife Laboratory in the United States" for its efforts in raising pheasants, quail, raccoons and rabbits. It soon became one of the largest producers of pheasant and quail chicks in the nation. One can still see remnants of the old pens along some of the trails.

By the early 1960's the game-raising program was phased out and in 1962 the park was designated Ouabache State Recreation Area, administered by the Division of State Parks. Since then changes have been made, and other than some of the original buildings, the park scarcely resembles its early existence. Finally, in 1983 the State Recreation Area classification was dropped and Ouabache became a State Park. Ouabache now features a modern campground, olympic-size swimming pool, seasonal naturalist service, picnic areas, play fields, boating and fishing on 25 acre Kunkel Lake, and tennis and basketball courts. A wildlife exhibit featuring American Bison, commonly known as Buffalo, is located just north of the firetower.

An added feature of Ouabache is an asphalt bike trail, accessible at the entrance gate house, which connects to a Rivergreenway Trail outside our boundaries and follows the Wabash River to the east edge of Bluffton. The 10 foot wide paved trail is popular with hikers and joggers also. The entire trail is approximately 3 miles in length. No motorized vehicles of any kind are permitted on the trail.

The Wabash River winds along the southern edge of the park, while County Road 100 South is the northern boundary. Many types of wildlife such as deer, fox, and squirrels are frequently seen along our roads and throughout the park. Motorists should be alert to park visitors and wildlife. **Please obey posted speed limits and drive cautiously.**